

EXHIBIT

DATE

SB

8  
4/12/13  
401

**To the House Appropriations Committee:**

Chairman Duane Ankney, Vice Chairmen Steve Gibson, Vice Chairman Galen Hallenbaugh, Representative Nancy Ballance, Representative Randy Brodehl, Representative Rob Cook, Representative Mike Cuffe, Representative Kimberly Dudik, Representative Champ Edmunds, Representative Ron Ehli, Representative Carl Glimm, Representative Dave Hagestrom, Representative Roy Hollandsworth, Representative Don Jones, Representative Kelly McCarthy, Representative Bill McChesney, Representative Bob Mehlhoff, Representative Pat Noonan, Representative Ryan Osmundson, Representative Lea Whitford, Representative Tom Woods:

**From the Sweet Grass County Board of Commissioners and the Hard Rock Mining Counties Association**

**Regarding Senate Bill 401**

The Montana Hard Rock Mining Counties Association, currently with 12 member counties, are in favor of a do pass on SB 401, An Act Revising Disposition of the Metalliferous Mines License Tax.

This would bring another 10% back to local government making it 35% to be used between local government and the affected school districts. Of that 35%, 37.5% goes into the trust account with the remaining split one third each to the county, high school and affected grade schools.

As an example of how these financial resources are distributed locally--Sweet Grass County uses their share to partially fund planning and economic development, we also annually distribute metal mines dollars to various projects, such as The Big Timber After School Program, currently serving 25 grade school age children, new air conditioning system at the senior center, that serves lunch to 50-75 senior citizens 4 times a week. These monies also go to the Tri-County Network working with domestic violence. There are many other projects that have received these funds in years past, helping make Sweet Grass County a better place to live.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sweet Grass County Commissioners

